

Abstract of the Disclosure

1 A diagnostic instrument or data acquisition apparatus having a database for storing
2 communications interface specifications and other properties of diagnostic attributes (e.g., sensor
3 measurements or operating conditions) outputted by various classes (models or versions) of
4 equipment to be tested. The database records include a first field identifying a class of equipment, a
5 second field identifying (e.g., by name or description) a diagnostic attribute whose value is outputted
6 by that class of equipment, and a third field. The third field can specify an ID (e.g., physical signal
7 line, physical address, or logical address) that enables a diagnostic apparatus to retrieve the value of
8 the attribute identified by the second field from the class of UUT equipment identified by the first
9 field of the record. Alternatively, the third field can identify the communications interface at which
10 the diagnostic attribute is transmitted.